

**Forth Cruising Club**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**31 October 2013**

The meeting opened at 19.30 and was chaired by the Commodore.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:-

- D Gilchrist
- K Bellini
- M Bellini
- Ted Cox

**2. Present**

There were 36 members of the Club present, including the current Committee.

**3. Minutes**

The adoption of the Minutes of the Spring General Meeting on 11 April 2013 was proposed by Phil Whetton and seconded by Sandy Thomson. There were no dissenters.

**4. Commodore Report - Denis Sullivan**

Here we are again at last I am finally able to say that we have had a fine summer. Let us hope it's the first of many.

**Thanks to Committee**

As always my sincere thanks to all our committee members and additional helpers (Willie and Nan). As you know John Drury (RC Clubhouse) is standing down this year and we are very keen to find a replacement. My thanks to John who has done sterling work for the club. Other committee positions to fill are Secretary and Social Convenor.

The position of Secretary has changed slightly in that memberships are now being handled by the Treasurer. This has made the job of Secretary much less demanding.

Likewise the position of Social Convenor has become less demanding if we follow the format used in 2013 where the Social Convenor oversees the individuals running each event.

In view of the above I anticipate a flood of volunteers for these positions.

One other change is that Willie McAlpine wishes to stand down as bar manager and as this is a Committee appointment we hope to find a volunteer to take over fairly quickly. Anybody wishing to take over from Willie please contact me tonight after the meeting.

**Crane out**

Many thanks to everybody who helped at a successful crane out and congratulations to Phil for achieving a much tighter "stow" and leaving us some usable car parking space. The new strops and lifting wires were also a great success.

## **Rules**

As you are aware you will shortly be asked to vote on the new version of the rules. This document incorporates all suggested changes up to date and sits happily alongside the Constitution approved in May. The voting on the rules will take place before the election of new office bearers.

I should point out that neither of these documents is set in stone and changes can be proposed by any member and voted on at any General Meeting.

## **Absent friends**

As you are aware we have had to say a final farewell to two of our members this year. John Binning ex Commodore of the club died tragically in a boating accident in May. More recently on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October Al Terris passed away after many years battling with ill health. Al was a founder member of the club and would have been well known to many of you. Our sincerest condolences go out to both of these families.

## **Future plans**

Many of you will have noticed that the clubhouse is starting to look a little shabby mainly on the ground floor. Work done locating the source of dampness around the front door has made the hallway area a bit of a mess. I now have approval from the estate to replace the front door with something more weatherproof and high performance. This will be done as soon as possible and we also hope to incorporate a simplified entry system.

After the front door is replaced we anticipate a full clean up and repaint of the whole of the ground floor area. We also hope to modernise the ladies toilets to a high standard. We will be looking to complete this work during work parties on Sundays.

These work parties have been very well supported in recent years and I hope this will continue as they are so important in keeping the club and harbour in such good condition. They have also become a friendly get together with coffee and cake being provided by Eva, which has been very much appreciated after a day in the mud. Not that they let me in the mud these days.

## **Cruises**

Club members have completed two outstanding cruises this year. Murdoch McGregor practically circumnavigated Scotland and Matthew Carradice completed a return trip across the North Sea in spite of severe health problems. I would like to record my admiration and to congratulate you both.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion I look forward to a clement closed season and another fine summer to follow. I also look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner dance. I believe there are still a couple of places left and Ian Maul is here to take names and or monies from anyone wishing to attend. Numbers and monies are required soon by the Elgin.

## **5. Vice Commodore Report – Sandy Thomson**

This year was a very good year for our club racing.

We started off with the Pairs Event which paired an experienced skipper with a less experienced skipper. This was a great success and the feedback I received from the participants told me that lots of information was passed down and it was a worthwhile exercise which could be held again next year.

The entries for the next few races were a bit disappointing. This was due in part to some of our regular racers having boat troubles or pressure of work keeping them off the water. However, I was overjoyed to see 11 boats line up for our Regatta on the Saturday.

We lost 3 races this season due to the weather and as the tides were not that favourable this year those races could not be fitted in elsewhere.

The Fife Regatta was again held at FCC and once again it proved a great success with close racing in both of the races. We had 6 Division one boats, 1 division Two and 6 white sail class boats taking part. I would like to thank George Scrivener and Alastair Bullions for all their hard work in making this event the success it was.

The rolling handicap system was phased in this year and after a few teething troubles settled down and is now providing handicaps that reflect a boats performance better than ever before.

Thank you. Any questions?

There were no questions

## **6. Rear Commodore (Piers and Moorings) Report – Phil Whetton**

### **Summer work completed**

A big thank you to all those who lent a hand with the work.

- All grass cutting including garden, pier and road side – a big thank you to John Drury who saved the Club a wee fortune as prior to him taking on this task we used to pay to get this done.
- New mooring added at Limekilns Pier
- More chain cut and sold
- Successful crane out – 56 boats/6masts/2 pontoons. More streamlined now due to new wire/hooks and our new slings.

### **Proposed winter work parties**

Starting this Sunday – 3 November – 10 am to 12 noon followed by coffee etc. All welcome to help improve our Club's facilities.

- Remove davit ropes
- Remove draught boards
- Replace missing pole in Brucehaven
- Dig up and check remainder of Brucehaven sinkers and manufacture new if required
- Repair garden seat and install on pier for those who do not wish to sail!

- Investigate/manufacture cardinal for the East rocks
- Design/manufacture and install new fixings for South pontoons
- Modify hose reels at basement, including the hose reel drum outside
- Replace mast rack support
- Clear rocks to East of Brucehaven
- Investigate raising height of North pontoon
- Investigate/install lamppost switching to enable it to be switched at garden entrance

## **7. Rear Commodore (Clubhouse) Report - John Drury**

At the beginning of this year Moira Hoyes retired from cleaning the clubhouse and I would like to thank her for all the hard work she has put in over the years. At the moment, I am doing most of the cleaning as and when required. If anyone would like to help, please let me know.

I think we have got to the bottom of the damp at the front door. The floor under the bar is dry with the fitting of a new beer cooler. The stone work at the sides of the entrance door has been pointed then waterproofed. Water was getting though between the stones. Owing to the thickness of the wall, it will take some time to dry out, then we can repair the inside wall etc.

There are some brackets on the front gutters needing replaced and some weed growth at the end gable to be removed. I am waiting for the roofer to come and see then repair.

## **8. Rear Commodore (Club Boat) Report – George Scrivener**

Osprey has proved her worth once again. All the race marks and Cardinals have been taken in. There is still a slight problem with the engine being difficult to start when it is hot. It has been suggested that the injectors need to be looked at and this will hopefully be done over the winter.

George is aware that coxswain training has not taken place as he had hoped. He, if re-elected, will set aside two days in the next sailing season to deal with this.

## **9. Cruising Convenor Report – Alastair Bullions**

Work, holidays and sailing commitments elsewhere have meant that I have only been able to attend three cruises in the last season. Cruises have been reasonably well attended with the best attendance being the Treasure Hunt.

There have been two notable trips undertaken by members who are new the Club and relatively new to sailing.

- Matt Carradice went on a Baltic Cruise
- Murdo McGregor went to Stonehaven and forgot to come back!

Well done to both of them.

We are hoping that more members will venture further next year. I hope that we will be able to run another comprehensive cruising programme next year. I suggest that a meeting is held in the clubhouse in January to discuss plans. I will have significant work commitments next year but would be happy to stand for re- election on the basis that two or three individuals to volunteer to lead cruises. Ken Bellini has already offered his services.

The possibility of a Muster at perhaps Aberdour has been suggested. We could perhaps use their clubhouse to have a get together with food, drink and perhaps some entertainment.

Any questions? Thank you for listening.

## 10. Treasurer's Report – Eva Brockie

### Membership

Currently we have 88 members in the following categories:

Category	Number	Fees £	Total £
A	15	54	810
A1	63	176	11088
A2	4	81	324
D	4	0	0
D1	1	122	122
C1	1	20	20
Total	88		12364

As you see from the accounts only £8099.50 was collected prior to 31 August 2013. Approximately two thirds of the total. A large number of the balance of subscriptions due were paid in the first half of September but there were still a number who had to be pursued vigorously.

Fees are due by 31 August. There is provision in the Constitution for the Committee to consider whether not an individual's membership has ceased and that member would then have to reapply for membership.

pay when they see fit whereas the majority pay on time. The new Committee may wish to consider implementing the letter of the Rules.

### Accounts

The first item to comment on is the apparent increase in subscriptions. It is only apparent! The figure shown of £20094.50 includes subscriptions of £11995 should have been paid before **August 2012**. The largest expenditure has been incurred by RC Piers and Moorings. This includes the new roof on the basement and of course various strops and wires for the crane – and more chain.

The accounts have been, as is the custom, completed on a cash basis and therefore do not include stock in the form of merchandise, bar supplies or chain.

The surplus for the year is £8358.30 which as I have said is distorted by the payment of subscriptions. Our current balance is around £22,000.

Denis has already outlined the proposed expenditure to improve amenities for all club members.

Finally, the Club has been asked to complete a Corporation Tax Return by HMRC. We will not pay tax as we are exempt. The Return must be completed however. The last year HMRC has accounts is 1996/97.

Any questions?

## 11. Rules

The Commodore introduced the committee approved motion that the membership should adopt the Rules in support of the Constitution.

Over the summer months the Committee has looked at the Rules. These Rules have now been drafted and approved by the Committee. A copy of the Rules was issued to Members for comment. Several Members took the time to read the proposed rules carefully and had raised a few issues. These have been discussed and any agreed amendments made. The revised sections, showing the amendments in red, have been issued to the membership. There has been no further comment.

On that basis Phil Whetton proposed that the Rules be adopted to stand alongside the Constitution. This was seconded by Robert Peebles. There was no counterproposal. The Members present were asked to vote on this proposal. There was a unanimous vote in favour. The Rules now stand alongside the Constitution.

## 12. Retiral of Committee members/Election of new Office Bearers

All members of the current Committee are due to stand down. The Commodore thanked them for their hard work and support.

Ian Girvan presided over the election of new office bearers.

Position	Member nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by	Other Proposal	Elected office Bearer
Commodore	Denis Sullivan	Sandy Thomson	Phil Whetton	no	Denis Sullivan
Vice Commodore	Sandy Thomson	Denis Sullivan	Ian Maul	no	Sandy Thomson
Cruising Convener	Alastair Bullions	Robert Peebles	Phil Whetton	no	Alastair Bullions
Rear Commodore (Piers & Moorings)	Phil Whetton	Willie McAlpine	Mike Brockie	no	Phil Whetton
Rear Commodore (Clubhouse)	No nominations				Committee
Secretary	Kathy Gostick	Eva Brockie	Jenny Sullivan	no	Kathy Gostick
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Eva Brockie	John Drury	David Gray	no	Eva Brockie
Social Convener	Kathryn Farmer	George Scrivener	David Brown	no	Kathryn Farmer
Rear Commodore (Club Boat)	George Scrivener	Phil Whetton	Kathryn Farmer	no	George Scrivener

The only other post was that of Bar Manager. This was a Committee appointed post and the Commodore asked that any member interested in undertaking these duties should contact him or any other Committee member.

## 13. AOCB

13.1 Alex Birrell had made application to the Committee in respect of the 'policing' of the occupation of the pontoons. He has received a reply from the Committee but wished his comments to be heard at the AGM. Denis handed over to Alex who read the following prepared statement.

'I would be pleased if the following comments, or observations, were put to the AGM for consideration by the Club Committee and the Membership.

- Since club members are restricted to staying on the club pontoons for approximately 48 hours, I would be pleased to propose that this same time limit is imposed on visiting boats. At present I am led to believe that there is no time limit placed on how long visitors can stay tied up at Limekilns harbour free of charge. If this is the case it seems grossly unfair that non-paying visitors are afforded more privileges than fee paying members. I therefore respectfully suggest that visitors staying more than the specified time (48 hrs.) should then be expected to pay for the pleasure. A notice could be positioned at the end of the harbour to this effect.
- On several occasions in the past I have voiced the view that there are too many boats in the harbour here at Limekilns. I am still of that opinion, although I realise that situation is unlikely to alter, as it appears that the Committee seems determined to create "Standing Room Only" situation in the harbour. In order to make this situation less 'claustrophobic' could I respectfully suggest that those members who are moored at, or near, the front of the harbour give consideration to those behind them by securing their tenders close up to their BOW mooring buoy, when they leave their moorings to go sailing. At present it is often the case that tenders are secured to the STERN mooring buoy and just as often, the tender floats at the end of around 2metres of painter. This creates a situation where there is less room for passing boats, from the rear of the harbour, to manoeuvre than there would be if the boat was actually still on the mooring.
- Finally, I would be delighted if it could be brought to the attention of the club members, and noted in the minutes, the passage completed this season, by one of our members, namely Murdo McGregor, when he sailed solo 'Round the Top' of Scotland in his 21ft boat. To my knowledge this is the first time such a passage has been undertaken successfully by one of our club members under such conditions, and fully deserves the recognition of the club and all of its members. I would personally like to congratulate Murdo on his determination and courage. Well Done Murdo!!'

In answer to his final point, the Commodore stated that the Committee has already discussed the question of the trips made by both Murdo and Matt and plans were in hand to recognise their achievements.

Rear- Commodore (Piers & Moorings) initiated the discussion on the two remaining points. After some discussion it was agreed that the Rules cover the point of mooring on the pontoons adequately at present and no further amendments are required. If a member, with good reason, wished to use a pontoon which was occupied by another member and was unable to negotiate use with that member, RC(P&M) could be approached, failing whom the Committee. RC (P&M) said that in the past these matters had been resolved amicably between members and that he hoped this would continue in future.

Discussions followed on the second point. It was generally agreed that this was a matter of good seamanship. RC (P&M) undertook to remind members of this at the Spring General Meeting.

13.2 Ian Girvan proposed that there should be an increase in the Joining fee. The current fee is £10 and it was felt that this was too low. If current members do not pay subscriptions on time they may be asked to rejoin – paying a new joining fee. It was agreed that £10 was too low. After some discussion it was agreed that the joining fee should be increased to 50% of the full annual fee.

A motion based on the joining fee being increased to 50% of the full annual fee with effect from 1 December 2013 was put to the members present. This was proposed by George Scrivener and seconded by Phil Whetton. **The members present voted unanimously in favour of the motion.**

13.3 Phil Whetton suggested that the Club had a trophy cabinet to display trophies during the sailing season. This was seconded by George Scrivener. **The members present voted unanimously to accept this proposal. The details would be left with the Committee to deal with.**

13.4 John Drury had one final proposal that consideration be given to leaving the slipway clear during the winter months so that members like him with trailable boats could launch them earlier in the season. This was seconded by Alex Birrell. A counterproposal that the status quo remained was made by Phil Whetton and seconded by Sandy Thomson.

**Subject to the number of boats requiring winter storage and the safe ‘parking’ of these boats, the first proposal was passed by a small majority.**

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 21.43.